

March 10, 2009

GROWER VOTE TO CONSIDER CONTINUATION OF THE CALIFORNIA CLING PEACH BOARD

Voting Deadline: April 8, 2009

TO THE CALIFORNIA CLING PEACH GROWER ADDRESSED:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is currently conducting a referendum of all California cling peach growers to determine if the industry supports the continuation of the California Cling Peach Board. Such a vote must be conducted every five years.

As you may be aware, the California Cling Peach Board conducts promotion and research activities on behalf of the cling peach industry. Funds for these activities are generated from a mandatory assessment on all cling peaches produced in California. The current producer assessment is \$2.40 per ton.

Enclosed with this letter are a referendum ballot and a return envelope. Please read the ballot to determine your eligibility to vote as a producer. If you qualify as an eligible cling peach producer, you are encouraged to complete the ballot and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you do not qualify as an eligible producer, please indicate this by checking the appropriate box on the ballot and return it to us. In order for your ballot to be counted, it must be signed and received by this office or postmarked no later than <u>April 8, 2009</u>. Ballots will be kept confidential. A summary of the voting results will be announced following tabulation.

In order for the Cling Peach Board to continue, a majority of those producers voting must vote in favor of continuation. However, if it were determined from the referendum that termination is actually favored, the program would discontinue on May 31, 2009, which is the end of the current marketing season.

If you have questions regarding this referendum, please call Dennis Manderfield of this office at (916) 341-6005. If you have questions about the activities of the California Cling Peach Board, please contact J.D. Allen, Manager of the California Cling Peach Board, at (559) 595-1425.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief CDFA Marketing Branch

Enclosures

